



U.S. Department of Justice

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BELVIDERE WOMAN SENTENCED TO 78 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD W. SANDERS, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration; ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; DUANE E. WIRTH, Boone County Sheriff; STEVEN PUGH, Rockford Police Chief; and JAN W. NOBLE, Belvidere Police Chief; today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **SANDRA HERNANDEZ**, 29 (DOB: 8/08/1975), of Belvidere, Illinois, to 78 months in federal prison without parole, and four years of supervised release following her release from prison, for her role in a conspiracy to distribute marijuana. Hernandez was found guilty of participating in the marijuana distribution conspiracy on March 23, 2005, following a three-day jury trial in federal court in Rockford.

On April 8, 2004, Hernandez was charged with conspiring with Luis Gonzalez, Javier Gonzalez, Henry Maynes, and Coby Hunt, to distribute marijuana. Luis Gonzalez had arranged for 300 pounds of marijuana to be transported from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Rockford in March of 2004, and Maynes recruited Hernandez to assist in the transportation. Hernandez drove with her minor child from Rockford to Albuquerque. There, Hernandez met with Luis Gonzalez and Javier Gonzalez, who helped load approximately 270 pounds of marijuana into a rental vehicle Hernandez was driving. Hernandez began driving her rental vehicle en route back to Rockford. In Missouri, Hernandez saw a drug check point and threw away the marijuana. The marijuana was later recovered by law enforcement officers in Missouri.

Other participants in this conspiracy were previously sentenced by Judge Reinhard. They are:

LUIS GONZALEZ, 42, (DOB: 5/20/1962), formerly of Las Cruces, New Mexico, pleaded guilty on March 9, 2005, and was sentenced to 25 years in prison without parole.

JAVIER GONZALEZ, 37, (DOB: 5/29/1967), formerly of Las Cruces, New Mexico, also pleaded guilty on March 9, 2005, and was sentenced to 96 months in federal prison without parole.

HENRY MAYNES, 40 (DOB: 8/30/1964), formerly of Belvidere, Illinois, pleaded guilty on September 3, 2004, and was sentenced on April 20, 2005, to 46 months in federal prison without parole.

COBY HUNT, (DOB: 2/19/1982), of Belvidere, Illinois, pleaded guilty on August 27, 2004, and was sentenced on April 25, 2005, to 42 months in federal prison without parole.

This case was investigated the Rockford and Jefferson City, Missouri offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration, with assistance from the Rockford office of the FBI, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Pulaski County (Missouri) Sheriff's Department, the Lake Area Narcotics Enforcement Group (Missouri), the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the Boone County Sheriff's Department, the Rockford Police Department, the Belvidere Police Department, and the Rockford DEA Task Force. This case was prosecuted in United States District Court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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